

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**ABC CITES CLERKS FOR SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR** – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), cited two employees for selling alcohol to minors at the Los Angeles County Fair on September 17, 2005. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 18 retail licensees at the Los Angeles County Fair.

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250.00 and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business' liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy Operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 16 percent.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne McPeak Wright, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.